



## CHALLENGE FOR FILM-MAKERS

Make new props (such as clothing, weapons, tools, and books) look old and worn.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

[Chain Mail](#)

[Surfaces and Substances](#)

## CHALLENGE FOR STUDENTS



- Brainstorm about:
  - how you can tell when an object is new or old
  - causes of wear and tear.
- Choose an object to investigate, like a piece of clothing, a book, or a metal tool. Discuss how your object has changed or might change with age.

## TEACHING POINTS

e.g. colour, shine, shape, elasticity, texture, effectiveness, presence of stains, rust, chips, or tears

e.g. sunlight, heat, soap, friction, perspiration, water, mould, dirt, stretching and/or compression

e.g. T-shirts fade, stain, or wear under the armpits, become baggy around the hem, come apart at the seams.



**See** the costumes and props in the different zones.

**Touch** the Rohan saddle near zone 6.

### Focus questions:

- Which costumes or props look very old or worn? How can you tell?
- Why do they need to look that way?
- How do you think they were made to look that way?

Some clothing and fabrics used in the movie were sprayed with a mixture of paint, dye, water, and shellac (e.g. to represent mud on hems or wear on collars). Suede was roughed up using a kitchen grater.



- Experiment with ways to make your object look realistically old and worn – but still useable.
- Present and assess your work.

### Possible solutions:

- Bleach accelerates the effect that sunlight and washing have on fabric. **USE WITH CAUTION!**
- Acetone makes holes in rayon and

acetate fabrics. USE WITH CAUTION!

- Tea and coffee can stain old pages for an “ancient book look”. Mixed with water, they can give fabric “perspiration” stains.
- A candle or lighter can singe paper edges.
- Sand in red oxide paint produces a metallic rust texture.